

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Fritz Huebner and Amy V. Schouman
For : WALL SYSTEM EMPLOYING GROOVED POSTS,
CONNECTOR BLOCKS AND T-BOLT RECEIVING
BATTENS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Reissue
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims in the application for reissue of U.S. Letters Patent No. 5,634,300 filed herewith as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 22 as follows.

22. [Amended] A post subassembly for a panel wall system, comprising:
- a first elongated post having four sides and two ends;
 - at least one of said sides having a groove for receiving and mounting a batten, and at least one of said sides having an elongated T-slot for receiving a T-bolt fastener;
 - a first connector block;
 - a second elongated post having four sides and two ends, at least one of said second post sides having a groove to receive a batten and having a T-slot, said second post being positioned normal to said first post, and T-bolts attaching said first connector block, and thus said second post, to said first post;
 - said posts also having additional slots which extend through said ends, said slots being configured to receive threaded fasteners;
 - said first connector block on at least one of said second post ends, and threaded fasteners extending through said first connector block and into said post slots;
 - said first connector block also having T-slots for attachment with T-bolts to a T-slot of a second post; and

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a batten mounted in said groove of said first post, said batten having a flange which extends over and thereby covers said first connector block.

Please add the following claims.

25. [Added] The post subassembly of claim 22 wherein said groove for receiving and mounting a batten of said first elongated post and said elongated T-slot for receiving a T-bolt fastener of said first elongated post are on separate sides of said first elongated post.

26. [Added] The post subassembly in claim 22 wherein said groove for receiving and mounting a batten of said first elongated post and said elongated T-slot for receiving a T-bolt fastener of said first elongated post are on separate sides of said first elongated post, and said groove to receive a batten on said side of said second elongated post and said T-slot of said second elongated post are on separate sides of said second elongated post.

27. [Added] The post subassembly of claim 22 wherein said batten further includes a fastener extending therethrough to mount said batten to said first elongated post.

28. [Added] The post subassembly of claim 27 wherein said batten further includes a central body positioned proximate said groove, said fastener extending through said central body, said groove threadingly receiving said fastener into said first elongated post.

29. [Added] The post assembly of claim 22 wherein said T-slots of said first connector block includes an open end.

30. [Added] The post subassembly of claim 22 wherein said T-slots of said first connector block includes at least one closed end.

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REMARKS

Claim 22, before amendment, is deemed invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Paragraph 1, as being indefinite, in that the limitation "said connector block" appearing at Col. 13, line 14 thereof lacks antecedent basis. The amendments to claim 22 are intended to provide the necessary antecedent basis.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 22 and added claims 25-31, none of which are deemed to enlarge the scope of the claims, are in allowable condition and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 22 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

HUEBNER ET AL.

By: PRICE, HENEVELD, COOPER,
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June 6, 2001
Date

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

22. [Amended] A post subassembly for a panel wall system, comprising:

a first elongated post having four sides and two ends;

at least one of said sides having a groove for receiving and mounting a batten, and at least one of said sides having an elongated T-slot for receiving a T-bolt fastener;

a first connector block;

a second elongated post having four sides and two ends, at least one of said second post sides having a groove to receive a batten and having a T-slot, said second post being positioned normal to said first post, and T-bolts attaching said first connector block, and thus said second post, to said first post;

said posts also having additional slots which extend through said ends, said slots being configured to receive threaded fasteners;

[a] said first connector block on at least one of said second post ends, and threaded fasteners extending through said first connector block and into said post slots;

said first connector block also having T-slots for attachment with T-bolts to a T-slot of a second post; and

a batten mounted in said groove of said first post, said batten having a flange which extends over and thereby covers said first connector block.

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STATEMENT OF STATUS OF CLAIMS AND
SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c), the Applicants provide the following Statement of Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes.

The status of claims 1-21 remains unchanged and, in view of the Applicants, claims 1-21 are valid and enforceable. Claim 22 is deemed invalid for failing to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, Paragraph 1. Claims 23 and 24, depending from invalid claim 22, are deemed otherwise valid and enforceable if depending from a valid and enforceable independent claim. Claims 25-31 are added claims.

Support for the amendment to claim 22 is found in the prosecution history, wherein the features of application claim 24 (Specification, p. 25) were incorporated into application claim 23 (Paper No. 5, Amendment, November 6, 1995, p. 2). However, as incorporated, the antecedent for "said connector block," originally provided to application claim 24 by application claim 23 itself, was not included.

Support for added claims 25 and 26, wherein the groove to receive the batten and the T-slot are on separate sides of the post, is found in any of Figures 4-6, 14-23, 28-33, and Col. 4, lines 26-55.

Support for added claims 27-28 and 31, wherein the batten includes a fastener received in the groove, is found in Fig. 14 and Col. 6, lines 1-3.

Support for added claims 29-30, describing the T-slots of the first connector block, is found in Fig. 24 and Col. 7, lines 24-51.

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Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 22 and added claims 25-31 are in allowable condition and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 6, 2001
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